



# WEST AFRICAN ELECTION OBSERVERS NETWORK (WAEON) NEWSLETTER

MAY - AUGUST 2017

## Introduction

The WAEON Newsletter reports on activities undertaken by the Network's Secretariat; activities by network members in their respective countries; and updates on elections and governance issues from the West African sub-region. After a long break, the WAEON Secretariat is delighted to publish this first edition for the year 2017, covering May to August. This first edition features news update on the Network, election and governance related news from member countries in the West African Sub-region.

## WAEON Collaborates with NDI in the Liberia 2017 Elections

In May 2017, Ghana Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), the Secretariat of WAEON, entered into a partnership with Washington DC based National Democratic Institute (NDI) to mobilize citizens in the West African sub-region

through WAEON's platform to observe the elections in Liberia and also provide technical support to NDI. The objective of this partnership is to contribute to improvement in citizens' confidence in the outcome of the election by ensuring transparency and integrity of the elections. Activities undertaken so far in support of that are:

### Technical Support

As part of the partnership with NDI, WAEON Secretariat is providing technical support to NDI's International Observation Mission (IOM) which is based in Monrovia, Liberia. An Election Analyst from the Secretariat is working closely with officials at the IOM.

### Recruitment and Deployment of two Long Term Observers (LTOs)

The WAEON Secretariat sent a call to member organizations requesting for LTOs to be deployed in Liberia ahead of the October polls. Three applications were received by the

Secretariat from interested applicants. At the end of the selection process which involved interviewing all three applicants, two persons from the WAEON Network, that is, the National Election Watch (NEW) in Sierra Leone and Cadre d'Appui aux Processus Electoraux (CAPE) in Benin had the opportunity to be enlisted as LTOs and have been deployed since July 2017 along with other observers from NDI.

### **Recruitment of Short Term Observers (STOs)**

In addition to the LTOs, WAEON initiated a search for four capable people from member organizations to serve as STOs in Liberia's upcoming elections. The Secretariat received fourteen applications from interested candidates out of which six were shortlisted for interviews on August 29, 2017. The successfully selected STOs are waiting to be deployed to Liberia ahead of the Election Day. These STOs are from the following WAEON countries and member organizations:

- Togo - National Civil Society Consultation of Togo (CNSC Togo)
- Nigeria – Transitional Monitoring Group (TMG)
- Gambia - The Association of NGOs in the Gambia (TANGO)

## Ghana - Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO)

### **WAEON member countries' Activities**

#### **Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO), Ghana**

CODEO in its post 2016 election activities embarked on a nationwide Round Table Discussions (RTDs) in all 10 regional capitals of Ghana. The RTDs were meetings with regional election stakeholders to collate their views on the phenomenon of political party vigilantism. The series of engagements were organized under the theme **“The menace of Political Party Vigilantism and Ghana's Electoral Politics”**. The events took place between June 23 and August 23, 2017. An outcome of the RTDs will be to engage relevant stakeholders with policy recommendations drawn from the findings and advocate for an end to the phenomenon.

### **Other News: Election and Governance Related**

In relation to the upcoming elections in Liberia, some notable pre-election activities that have taken place within the period of compiling this newsletter are:

- Filing of nominations by candidates from June 19 to July 21, 2017. A total of 1,026 are candidates are contesting for the Legislative seats whiles 20 are presidential candidates.
- Voter Card Replacement took place from August 7 – 12, 2017.
- Official campaigning started on July 31, 2017 and is expected to end on October 8, 2017.

### Upcoming Elections in the West African Sub-Region

The Liberia Presidential and Legislative elections are scheduled to take place on October 10, 2017.

### Upcoming Events/Activities

#### WAEON Observation of the Liberian elections

Ahead of the polls, WAEON will deploy four observers to Liberia from October 4 – 13, 2017. They would be part of NDI's 34-member Liberia International Election Observation Mission.

#### WAEON Networking Meeting

WAEON will hold a Networking meeting with some of its members in Monrovia, Liberia. The Date for the event has not yet been confirmed.

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### Note to WAEON Members

WAEON Network members are encouraged to submit news entries to the Secretariat for inclusion in the WAEON Newsletter. Kindly send us with your views, comments and suggestions on what could be done to improve the network. The next edition will be released by the end of December 2017. Please send your entries to: [info@waeon.org](mailto:info@waeon.org)